

Board of Selectmen  
Extension 109  
Town Administrator  
Extension 109  
Town Accountant  
Extension 120  
Town Clerk  
Extension 114  
Tax Collector  
Extension 113  
Treasurer  
Extension 112 or 110  
Board of Assessors  
Extension 111  
Land Use Office  
Extension 117  
Planning Board  
Extension 121  
Conservation Commission  
Extension 115



## TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM

Town Hall, 32 Main Street  
Ashburnham, Massachusetts 01430

OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Animal Control  
Board of Health  
Building Commission  
Conservation Commission  
Council on Aging  
Cultural Council  
Electrical Inspector  
Gas & Plumbing Inspector  
Historical Commission  
Municipal Planning  
Parks & Recreation  
Planning Board  
Zoning Board of Appeals

PHONE: (978)-827-4100

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## TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT March 17, 2014

Town Administrator's reports are available on-line at <http://www.ashburnham-ma.gov>

### TOWN COMMITTEES

Currently there are openings on the following (1) Conservation Commission, (3) Council on Aging Board, (1) Capital Planning Committee and (1) Advisory Board. These are listed on the Town's website under Volunteer Opportunities.

### BUDGET FY 15

Met with Advisory Board on Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of March to understand and develop alternative uses and required procedures for the \$1.8M in certified E&D monies that the AWRSD

In preparation for the leader's meeting on Wednesday March 12th, I put together a summary of what I perceive a possible course of action for the use of the \$1,870,249 E&D certified funds. I have also attached the E&D certified amounts by year since 2009.

### SUMMARY

#### FY 14 E&D \$1,870,249

1. Reduce FY 14 Assessments to towns \$481,852 **Completed**
2. School committee to vote to appropriate from E&D \$250,000 for FY 14 capital projects, by line item, and notify towns of certified vote. Towns either set up town meetings within 45 days to act on request or appropriation is accepted by default.
3. School Committee to vote to appropriate \$550,000 to reduce the assessments to the towns. This has been done in the past few years, but is not sound fiscal practice using free cash to defer lowering budget or asking for an override.
4. School committee vote to appropriate, by line item, \$329,000 from E&D to the Stabilization fund for FY 15 school capital program. Towns take action by placing article on town meeting warrant
5. School committee removes \$100,000 for Stabilization in FY 15 budget
  - a. The Stabilization Fund is only for capital and unforeseen expenditures there is currently \$100,000+ in fund for unforeseen expenses
  - b. Monies required for Capital expenditures will be voted at town meeting whether E&D or other revenues are used to be placed in Stabilization Fund. Note the Fund is only for expenditures for Oakmont, Overlook, or District.

Balance left in E&D would be **\$259,397**, this would be rolled over to FY 15 and added to the E&D (free cash) that is generated this year with assessments greater than expenditures estimated in the \$1,000,000, the result of

### History of Regional School District Excess and Deficiency

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Ashburnham Westminster	\$509,916	\$216,849	\$664,974	\$1,149,894	\$1,481,169	\$1,860,055

### INSURANCE

Requests for proposal were initiated on March 11<sup>th</sup> for the town's insurance; property and casualty, police and fire accident and death benefits and are due on April 16<sup>th</sup> at noon.

### GAS LINE

There will be a presentation and discussion with the representatives from Tennessee Gas Company tentatively set for 7<sup>th</sup> of April.

### CUSHING ACADEMY

Had a meeting with the new Headmaster at Cushing Academy, Chris Torino on March 11, 2014.

### TOWN MEETING

Met with Jeff Lawrence to discuss the process for the annual town meeting and how we can make it flow better. Once the budgets and warrant are complete I will set up meetings with the different presenters to ensure questions can be answered in a complete and informative fashion.

### MMA

I attended an information meeting in Ashby for the FY 15 budget with administrators and legislators. The legislators are projecting an increase of \$75 per student in Chapter 70 aid ( didn't happen), increase in regional transportation reimbursement, current about 65%, and also an increase in local aid (received just short of 3%). They were very hesitant to believe that the Governor will release the \$100M that was voted. They believe it will be released once there is a new governor in November.

### COA

I had the opportunity to take an hour to be a substitute bingo caller. They had a great time and it was a good break.

### ASBESTOS BID OPENING

Held the bid opening for the VMS asbestos removal on March 12, 2014 There were 19 companies that showed interest;- 7 submitted bids Premier Abatement, Methuen MA low bid **\$47,432** we have a **\$50,000 Budget**. I recommend that the Board authorize me to enter into a contract with Premier Abatement.

### SNOW AND ICE

Ask the Board to approve the over-expenditure of the Snow and Ice account which is currently -\$67,000. We should be able to cover this deficit at the end of the year through either an inter-departmental transfer or raise it on recap sheet.

### FY 13 AUDIT

Need to have the Board approve the FY 13 audit as presented.

### TRANSFER STATION

I was notified by the manager of Ashburnham Market that in order to keep selling stickers they need a \$.25 increase on what they currently get for selling the stickers. Steve Nims is doing a review, but it appears we have four choices:

1. Increase the cost of the stickers to \$5.25 from \$5
2. Sell the stickers from the town hall Monday thru Thursday
3. Develop a cost for a year sticker for the car.
4. Eliminate the use of the transfer station and have residents seek a private company.

I will be looking to give the market an answer by the end of next week. The market currently sells about 90% of all tickets.